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Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Law school moot court team heads to national finals" (2006). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 20057.
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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 14, 2006

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LAW SCHOOL MOOT COURT TEAM HEADS TO NATIONAL FINALS

MISSOULA –

For an unprecedented ninth consecutive year, a University of Montana moot court team will represent the UM School of Law in national competition.

The National Moot Court Competition, sponsored since 1950 by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the American College of Trial Lawyers, will be held in New York City in January.

Howell said the law school's nine-year streak of making it to the national finals of the competition is by far the longest in the nation. At the regional competitions, UM teams have finished first five times and second four times. The University most recently won the national championship in 2000.

Each year more than 1,000 students from 150 accredited law schools compete in 14 regions throughout the nation. The top two teams from each region advance to the national finals.

UM law students Megan Dishong of **Helena**, Isaac Kantor of **Missoula** and Brian Miller of **Gulf Breeze, Fla.**, placed second in the Northwest regional competition, held in Boise, Idaho, Nov. 9-11. Miller also was named second-best oralist at the competition.

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The students argued a case on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court that concerned two issues: whether a defendant's Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure was violated when a federal SWAT team asked to search his backpack after mistaking him for a dangerous fugitive and whether his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination was violated when officers read him a Miranda warning that did not expressly state he had the right to counsel during interrogation.

Six UM students took part in the Northwest regional competition. They were accompanied by team coaches, UM assistant professors Larry Howell and Andrew King-Ries.

Law students Rebecca Smith of **Missoula**, Dan Browder of **Victor** and Matt Cochenour of **Bozeman** also did well at the regional event, Howell said. They bested Gonzaga University, but lost to this year's Northwest region champion team from the University of Washington.

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